## Stages of the Writing Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>What are you thinking about?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| “Pre”-writing  | Gathering materials, generating ideas, and thinking about what you want to write | ● Reading, underlining, margin notes  
● Note-taking  
● Listening  
● Discussing  
● Brainstorming  
● Listing  
● Recording yourself  
● Free writing and loop writing  
● Journal writing  
● Idea maps/spider-grams  
● Close-reading assignments  
● Developing a provisional thesis  
● Going for a walk with a notebook or piece of paper | ● Audience  
● Purpose  
● Selecting evidence  
● Understanding and interpreting materials and assignment prompts  
● Developing ideas |
| Organizing     | Determining the order of elements in your essay                           | ● Informal outlining  
● Formal outlining  
● Post-it notes or notecards  
● White board and color coding | ● Answering the question(s) of the prompt  
● The development of your argument  
● Structure |
| Drafting       | Creating versions of your composition                                      | ● Writing                                                                 | ● Your thoughts in linguistic form  
● Rhetorical modes (narration, description, exposition, argumentation) |
| Revising       | Making major changes                                                      | ● Reverse outlining  
● Moving, cutting, adding paragraphs  
● Reviewing topic sentences  
● Discussing | ● The development of your argument  
● Paragraph structure  
● Working with professors’ or peers’ comments |
| Editing        | Making sentence-level changes to your writing                              | ● Reading aloud  
● Reading from the end  
● Paramedic method  
● Looking for whether the main idea is in the main clause  
● Grammar-specific searches (looking for e.g. passive voice if you don’t want to be using it) | ● Style  
● Diction and tone  
● Mechanics, usage, and grammar  
● Sentence structure and variety |
| Proof-reading  | Final read-through for small errors                                        | ● Read slowly in a format that allows you to see the text clearly | ● Mechanics |
| Presenting     | Putting your work into its final form                                      | ● Formatting  
● Final checks on notes and bibliography | ● Audience  
● Scholarly apparatus |